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EXCELLENCY

THIS IS THE FIRST TIME THAT A MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF AUSTRALIA OFFICIALLY VISITS PORTUGAL. THEREFORE, I WOULD LIKE TO BEGIN BY EXPRESSING TO YOUR EXCELLENCY HOW GREAT PLEASURE WE HAVE IN WELCOMING YOU HERE AND, AT THE SAME TIME, IN RECALLING

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THE WARM AND FRIENDLY TIES WHICH LINK THE PORTUGUESE PEOPLE TO THE PEOPLE OF AUSTRALIA.

WE DO LIVE IN FAR AWAY REGIONS OF THE WORLD. NEVERTHELESS HISTORY DESIGNS HAVE LINKED PORTUGAL TO THE PRINCIPLES OF THE AUSTRALIAN NATION AND, NOWADAYS WE DO SHARE THE SAME CULTURAL VALUES AND WE ARE SOLIDARY FACING COMMON INTERESTS.

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APPARENTLY, THE FIRST CONTACTS OF PORTUGAL WITH THE CONTINENT WHICH WAS LATER TO BE CALLED AUSTRALIA TOOK PLACE IN THE 1520 DECADE, RIGHT AFTER THE ARRIVAL OF THE PORTUGUESE NAVIGATORS TO THE TIMOR ISLAND. ALTHOUGH IT HAS NOT YET BEEN PEACEFULLY ACCEPTED, IT IS FOR US, HOWEVER, GROUND OF REJOICING TO REALIZE THAT SUCH CONCEPT HAS BEEN GAINING FOLLOWERS IN AUSTRALIA, NAMELY THROUGH THE INTERPRETATION OF THE SO CALLED

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"CHARTS OF DIEPPE", OF FRENCH CARTOGRAPHERS, AND WHICH COULD HAVE BEEN INSPIRED BY PORTUGUESE SECRET MAPS.

ANOTHER FACT THAT WE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO UNDERLINE HERE HAS TO DO WITH THE CELEBRATION OF THE "AUSTRALIAN BICENTENARY" IN 1988, BY WHICH AUSTRALIA WISHES TO RECALL THE STARTING OF ITS COLONIZATION BY CAPTAIN ARTHUR PHILLIPS, THE "FOUNDING FATHER" OF

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THE AUSTRALIAN NATION. BEEING A MAN WHO SERVED DURING FOUR YEARS IN THE PORTUGUESE NAVY, IN THE FIGHTING FOR THE DELIMITATION OF THE SOUTHERN FRONTIER OF BRAZIL, AND WHO ALSO MASTERED OUR LANGUAGE EXTREMELY AND DEEPLY WELL, CAPTAIN PHILLIPS OUGHT TO BE CONSIDERED JUSTLY A PRECURSOR OF THE EXCELLENT RELATIONS OF FRIENDSHIP WHICH EXIST BETWEEN OUR COUNTRIES.

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BESIDES THE FACTS OF THE PAST, WE WILL ALSO HAVE TO UNDERLINE MISTER MINISTER, THE EXISTENCE, AT PRESENT, OF A COMMUNITY OF NEARLY 40.000 PORTUGUESE PEOPLE SETTLED IN AUSTRALIA AND WHICH HAS SHOWN SIGNS OF INCREASING THUS REINFORCING THE CONTRIBUTION OF THE PORTUGUESE IN THE DEVELOPMENT AND PROGRESS OF AUSTRALIA.

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EXCELLENCY,

YOUR EXCELLENCY'S VISIT TO LISBON WAS ALREADY EXPECTED FOR QUITE SOMETIME.

AUSTRALIA, NOW REACHING ALMOST 200 YEARS OF HISTORY, IT IS A GREAT NATION, WITH LARGE RESOURCES AND CAPABLE OF HAVING INFLUENCE NOT ONLY ON ITS GEOGRAPHICAL AREA BUT ALSO OUTSIDE IT. AUSTRALIA IS UNDOUBTE-BLY THE MOST SIGNIFICANT POWER OF SOUTH-WEST

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PACIFIC. IT KEEPS STRONG COOPERATION RELATIONS WITH THE ASEAN MEMBERS. IT HAS AN OUTSTANDING PRESENCE IN THE SOUTHERN PACIFIC FORUM.

AUSTRALIA IS AN ALLIED OF THE THIRD WORLD IN MANY INTERNATIONAL ISSUES AND GIVES A DEFINITE CONTRIBUTION FOR THE PEACE AT SINAI. IT IS A PRIVILEGED SPEAKER WITHIN THE WESTERN WORLD. ITS POSITIONS ARE NOWADAYS FOR MANY COUNTRIES VERY DECISIVE MEANS OF

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REFERENCE SPECIALLY WHEN CONNECTED WITH ISSUES CONCERNING TO THE REGION WHERE AUSTRALIA IS SITUATED AND TO BE DISCUSSED IN THE UNITED NATIONS.

IT WAS ABOUT TIME THAT WE MEET AND THEREFORE ESTABLISH A BETTER MUTUAL KNOWLEDGE BETWEEN BOTH OUR COUNTRIES; IT WAS ALSO TIME FOR US TO STUDY THE EAST-TIMOR ISSUE.

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OUR POSITION CONCERNING THIS ISSUE IS WELL-KNOWN. WE WELCOME DIALOGUE WITH ALL THE PARTS DIRECTLY ENVOLVED, WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE MANDATE OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS, IN THE SEARCH FOR AN INTERNATIONALLY ACCEPTED SOLUTION THAT WOULD RESPECT THE LEGITIMATE RIGHTS AND THE ASPIRATIONS OF THE TIMORESE PEOPLE.

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WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THE EFFORTS OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL TO BRING ABOUT A SETTLEMENT OF THE PROBLEM OF TIMOR. UNDER THE MANDATE WE HAVE ALREADY STARTED TALKING WITH INDONESIA; THE CONTACTS HELD BY THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES IN NEW YORK HAVE PROVED USEFUL. BUT WE STRESS THAT PEACE CAN NOT BE ACHIEVED IF THE RIGHT OF THE EAST TIMORESE PEOPLE TO SELF- DETERMINATION

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GOES ON BEEING DENIED. WE NOTE THAT ACCORDING TO THE RECENT RESOLUTION OF THE AUSTRALIAN LABOUR PARTY, IT IS ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE FORMER PORTUGUESE TERRITORY WAS INCORPORATED IN INDONESIA WITHOUT THE PEOPLE OF EAST TIMOR HAVING BEEN GIVEN AN ADEQUATE OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS THEIR OWN WISHES THROUGH AN INTERNATIONALLY SUPERVISED ACT OF SELF-DETERMINATION. AUSTRALIAN

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DEPUTEES HAVE RECENTLY SENT ME A MESSAGE EXPRESSING THEIR DEEP CONCERN FOR THE EAST-TIMOR ISSUE. FOR US, ACTING ACCORDINGLY TO THE FULFILLMENT OF THE ONU RESOLUTIONS, IT IS SPECIALLY IMPORTANT THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE LIVING CONDITIONS OF THE TIMORESE AND THE RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS. OUR MAIN CONCERN AT THE MOMENT IS TO ALLEVIATE THEIR SUFFE-RING AND THE HARDSHIP THEY HAVE BEEN ENDURING

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DURING THESE YEARS OF FEAR AND TRAGEDY IN TIMOR. FREEDOM OF ACCESS TO THE TERRITORY OF THE INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN ORGANI-ZATIONS IS AN ESSENTIAL CONDITION ON THE ROAD TO PEACE.

MAY WE ADD THAT WE SHARE THE CONCERN OF AUSTRALIA FOR STABILITY IN SOUTH EAST ASIA. WE ARE AWARE OF THE SPECIAL INTERESTS AND RESPONSABILITIES OF AUSTRALIA,

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OF YOUR SECURITY NEEDS AND OF YOUR GOOD NEIGHBOUR POLICY IN THE AREA. OBVIOUSLY, A DEMOCRATIC COUNTRY ALSO GUIDES ITS FOREIGN POLICY BY MORAL STANDARDS AND PRINCIPLES AND NOT BY INTERESTS ONLY.

I WOULD THEREFORE SUGGEST THAT WE SHOULD CONSULT MORE OFTEN. IN THE DIFFICULT ROAD TO PEACE IN TIMOR, AUSTRALIAN SUPPORT IS VERY MUCH APPRECIATED. I HERE RECALL

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THE SUPPORT OFFERED BY AUSTRALIAN IN THE HARD DAYS OF 1975 - WHEN SUCH DRAMATIC EVENTS TOOK PLACE IN TIMOR. WITHOUT THE HELPS OF THE AUSTRALIAN AUTHORITIES IT COULD NOT HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE TO CARRY OUT MANY HUMANITARIAN RELIEF OPERATION TO DARWIN.

TODAY YOU HAVE EXTENDED YOUR GENEROSITY AND HOSPITALITY TO THE TIMORESE REFUGEES. WE ARE INDEED GRATEFUL.

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THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT MAY CONTRIBUTE TO BRING THE INDONESIA PART TO A CONSTRUCTIVE DIALOGUE WHICH MAY LEAD TO A SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM THAT WILL BOTH GIVE SATISFACTION TO THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY AND TO THE RIGHTS OF THE TIMORESE PEOPLE.

EXCELLENCY,

IT IS WITH SUCH HOPE THAT I WILL ASK ALL PRESENT HERE TO JOIN ME IN A TOAST

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TO HIS EXCELLENCY THE MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF AUSTRALIA AND TO MRS HAYDEN., TO THE AUSTRALIAN PEOPLE AND TO THE FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES.